Periodic review of big dams

1825. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to make periodic review of big dams in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome of such reviews; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BUOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India constituted the National Committee on Dam Safety in October, 1987. This Committee oversees dam safety activities in various States/organisations and suggests improvements to bring these in line with the latest state-of-the-art consistent with the Indian conditions. The committee also monitors follow up action on recommendations of the report on Dam Safety Procedures circulated in July, 1986. Dam Safety cells have been set up in 12 States which are responsible for periodic inspection of all the large dams in the States/organisations every year to repair the deficiencies. A number of old dams in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan have been strengthened under the World Bank Aided Dam Safety Assurance & Rehabilitation Programme. This Ministry has in July, 2001 also written to the Chief Ministers of all the States to review the safety of old dams by setting up a Task Force of experts to make a quick structural assessment.

New source of water in Rann of Kutch

1826. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ISRO Satellite pictures taken after the earthquake in Gujarat show large quantity of water in the arid zone of Rann of Kutch; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to harness the new source of water?